

**EDUCATION OF CHILDREN (AGES 5 TO 14) PER 10,000 AT CENSUS PERIODS,
AUSTRALIA, 1861 TO 1921.**

Division.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Read and write ..	4,757	5,910	7,061	7,588	7,984	9,027	8,687
Read only ..	2,628	2,078	1,266	734	481	29	11
Cannot read ..	2,615	2,012	1,673	1,678	1,535	944	1,302

3. Education as shown by Marriage Registers.—Another common method of testing the spread of education is to compare the number of mark signatures in the marriage registers with the total number of persons married during each year of a series. The percentage signing with a mark to the total persons married in the Census year 1921 was only 0.17, as compared with 24.60 in 1861.

§ 9. Miscellaneous.

1. **Scientific Societies.**—(i) *Royal Societies.* Despite the trials and struggles incidental to the earlier years of the history of Australia, higher education and scientific advancement were not lost sight of. Thus the origin of the Royal Society dates as far back as 1821, when it was founded under the name of the Philosophical Society of Australasia, Sir Thomas Brisbane being its first president. Scientific work was fitfully carried on by means of a Society whose name varied as the years rolled on. It was called the Australian Philosophic Society in 1850. In 1856 the old Australian Society merged into a resuscitated Philosophical Society of New South Wales, and its papers were published up to 1859 in the Sydney Magazine of Science and Art (2 vols., 1858–9). Its present title dates from 1866. Some of the papers of the old Philosophical Society were published in 1825 under the title of “Geographical Memoirs of New South Wales” (Barron Field), and contain much that is interesting in regard to the early history of Australia. One volume containing the Transactions of the Philosophical Society of New South Wales (1862–65) was published in 1866. The journal of the Society did not begin to bear a serial number, however (vol. 1), until the year 1867. “Transactions of the Royal Society of New South Wales” were published in 1867, the title of the series being altered to “Journal” in 1878. Up to the end of 1928, 62 volumes had been published. The exchange list comprises the names of 385 kindred societies. At the present time the library contains over 30,000 volumes and pamphlets, valued at about £9,000. Income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1928, were £1,835 and £1,908 respectively, and the Society had on the same date 346 members.

The Royal Society of Victoria dates from 1854, in which year the Victorian Institute for the Advancement of Science and the Philosophical Society of Victoria were founded. These were amalgamated in the following year under the title of the Philosophical Institute of Victoria, whilst the Society received its present title in 1860. The first volume of its publications dates from 1855. Up to 1928, 73 volumes of proceedings had been issued. The Society exchanges with 320 kindred bodies. The constitution of the Society states that it was founded “for the promotion of art, literature, and science,” but for many years past science has monopolized its energies. A mathematical and physical section encourages discussion in these sciences. The library contains over 17,000 volumes, valued approximately at £4,500. Income for the year 1928 amounted to £608, and expenditure to £477. There are 209 members on the roll.

The inaugural meeting of the Royal Society of Queensland was held on the 8th January, 1884, under the presidency of the late Sir A. C. Gregory. The Society was formed “for the furtherance of the natural and applied sciences, especially by means of original research.” Shortly after its formation it received an addition to its ranks by the amalgamation with it of the Queensland Philosophical Society, which was started at the time when Queensland became a separate colony. At the end of 1928 the members numbered 179; publications issued, 40 volumes; library, 7,500 volumes; societies on exchange list, 234. Income and expenditure for the year amounted to £356 and £346 respectively.

The Royal Society of South Australia grew out of the Adelaide Philosophical Society which was founded in 1853, its object being the discussion of all subjects connected with science, literature, and art. Despite this programme, the tendency of the papers was distinctly scientific, or of a practical or industrial nature. With the advent of the late Professor Tate, the Society became purely scientific. Permission to assume the title of "Royal" was obtained in 1879, the Society thenceforward being known as "The Royal Society of South Australia." In 1903 the society was incorporated. In 1927 the number of members was 149. The income for the year 1927-8 was £715, and expenditure £691. Up to 1928 the Society had issued 52 volumes of proceedings and 8 parts of memoirs, exclusive of several individual papers published in earlier years. The exchange list numbers about 230, while the library contains 5,200 volumes and over 1,950 pamphlets. The Field Naturalists section of the Society comprises 179 members, and issues a small quarterly journal called "The South Australian Naturalist."

Permission to assume the title of Royal Society was granted to the Natural History and Science Society of Western Australia in March 1914. This Society has grown out of the Mueller Botanic Society, founded in July, 1897. The objects of the Society are the study of natural history and pure science, promoted by periodical meetings and field excursions, the maintenance of a library, and issue of reports of proceedings. It numbers at present 211 members. The income and expenditure in 1927-28 were £380 and £231 respectively. Five volumes of proceedings were issued as Journal of the Natural History and Science Society of Western Australia, and thirteen as of the Royal Society. Its publications are exchanged with 115 institutions at home and abroad. The library contains some 250 volumes, and over 2,000 unbound journals, pamphlets, etc.

The Royal Society of Tasmania (the first Royal Society outside the United Kingdom) was inaugurated by Sir Eardley Wilmot, Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land on the 14th October, 1843. It may be mentioned, however, that a scientific society had been formed as far back as 1838 under the presidency of Sir John Franklin, then Governor of the colony, and in 1841 the number of resident members was 31, and corresponding members, 38. The meetings of this parent society were held at Government House, and three volumes of proceedings were issued. A large portion of the Colonial Gardens, together with a grant of £400, was given to the Society. A library and museum were established in 1848. In 1885 the museum and gardens were given back to the State, the Society being granted room in the museum for its library and meetings. The names of Captains Ross and Crozier, of H.M.S. *Erebus* and *Terror*, appear in the list of the first corresponding members. The Society, which since 1844, has published 65 annual volumes of proceedings, possesses 257 members, 7 corresponding members, 6 life members, exchanges with 257 kindred bodies, and has a library containing 16,050 volumes, in addition to manuscripts, etc., valued at over £10,000. Income for the year 1928 was £344 and expenditure £343.

(ii) *The Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science.* This Association was founded in 1887, with head-quarters at the Royal Society's House in Sydney. It was recognized that in addition to Royal, Linnean, and Naturalists' Societies generally, there was a decided necessity for an organization representative of scientific education in Australia and New Zealand "to give a stronger impulse and a more systematic direction to scientific inquiry, to promote the intercourse of those who cultivate science in different parts of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, and in other countries, to obtain more general attention to the objects of science, and a removal of any disadvantages of a public kind which may impede its progress." The Association aims at co-operation between the workers in the various branches of science on the one hand, and between the professional scientist and the general public on the other. Its meetings are usually held biennially within the various States and in the Dominion of New Zealand. The next meeting will be held in Brisbane in May, 1930. Although the actual funds of the Association are small, liberal aid has always been forthcoming from the various State Governments, especially in connexion with the printing of the important volumes of its proceedings, of which Vol. XVIII. is the latest issued. The library of the Association contains 4,000 volumes. Not the least important of the activities of the Association was the giving a constitution to the Australian National Research Council which brought in its train the Pan-Pacific Science Congress of 1923.

(iii) *Other Scientific Societies.* The Linnean Society of New South Wales, with headquarters in Sydney, was founded in 1874. The soundness of its present position is due to the benefactions of Sir William Macleay, who during his lifetime and by his will endowed the Society to the amount of £67,000, which has been increased by judicious investment to over £80,000. Income for the year 1928 amounted to £5,861 and expenses to £3,650, including £766 for research purposes. The Society maintains a research bacteriologist (the position was vacant in 1928), and offers annually 4 research fellowships in various branches of natural history. Two scholarships were awarded in 1928. The library comprises some 14,000 volumes, valued at about £7,000. Fifty-three volumes of proceedings have been issued, and the Society exchanges with some 200 kindred institutions. The ordinary membership at the end of 1928 was 170.

The British Astronomical Society has a branch in Sydney, and in some of the States the British Medical Association has branches.

In addition to the societies enumerated above, there are various others in each State devoted to branches of scientific investigation.

2. **Public Libraries.**—(i) *States.* In each of the capital cities there is a well-equipped Public Library, the institutions in Melbourne and Sydney especially comparing very favourably with similar institutions elsewhere. The following statement gives the number of volumes in the Public Library of each capital city :—

METROPOLITAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 1927.

City.	Number of Volumes in—			Total.
	Reference Branch.	Ordinary Lending Branch.	Country Lending Branch.	
Sydney	(a) 412,849	(b)	46,738	459,587
Melbourne	388,664	49,696	438,360
Brisbane	52,191	52,191
Adelaide	143,650	66,114	209,764
Perth	127,758	18,685	146,443
Hobart	30,000	30,000

(a) Including 120,548 volumes in the Mitchell Library.

(b) The maintenance and control of the ordinary lending branch of the Public Library at Sydney were transferred in 1908 to the Municipal Council. At the end of December, 1927, the books numbered 46,738.

During 1921 the Public Library authorities in Sydney inaugurated the system of lending boxes of children's books to country schools, and a large number of these children's travelling libraries is now in operation. Boxes are forwarded to out-back schools distant from towns. Each box contains about 40 books, and is lent for a period of four months, and then exchanged for another collection, the Library Trustees defraying the cost of carriage both ways. During the year ended 30th June, 1927, reference books to the number of 32,852 were sent by post on loan to 21,105 borrowers in the country areas.

A special research staff attached to the Public Library gives valuable assistance in making readily available to inquirers the store of information contained in books, etc., which, owing to limitations of space, are not in open access.

The Mitchell Library in Sydney consisted of over 60,000 volumes and pamphlets, and 300 paintings, principally relating to Australasia, valued at £100,000, and bequeathed in 1907 by Mr. D. S. Mitchell, together with an endowment of £70,000. The testators stipulated that the regulations of the British Museum were to be adopted as far as practicable, hence the library is the resort of specialists. There are now over 120,000 volumes in the library in addition to valuable collections of Australian postage and fiscal stamps.

Amongst other important libraries in New South Wales may be mentioned the "Fisher" Library at Sydney University, with 176,000 volumes; the library at the Australian Museum, 26,000; the Teachers' College library, 30,000; Sydney Technical College library, 14,000; and the library at the Botanic Gardens, 9,800. The libraries attached to State schools contain about 481,000 volumes.

The reading room at the Melbourne Public Library ranks among the finest in the world. It was opened in 1913, and has a diameter of 114 feet, with a similar height, and is capable of seating 320 readers at a time, all of whom are under efficient supervision